GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3093
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000
MONITORING COMMITTEE TO CHECK BLACKMARKETING
RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up monitoring committees at District/ State level to check the blackmarketing of the items being distributed through the FPS under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected and registered by these Committees during the last three years;

(c) the main reasons for the blackmarketing being done at a large scale by the fair price shops; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check it immediately?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) and (b) The concept of Monitoring Committee in the form of Vigilance Committees has been an important constituent of Public Distribution System

(PDS) since long. As per PDS guidelines issued in March, 1987 and TPDS guidelines issued in February,1997, State Governments have been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees as a measure of social audit of the working of PDS in the country. The data pertaining to number of cases detected by the Vigilance Committees at various levels in different States is not maintained by the Government.

(c) Bogus units in ration cards, bogus ration cards, low profit margins for Fair Price Shops (FPS) owners, floating population, non availability/ irregular supply and under weighment are cited as some of the reasons for black marketing at the FPS level.

(d) State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)in implementation of PDS. They have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiateaction against erring FPS owners under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.The Government of India have set up Public Grievances` Redressal Cell in the Department of Public Distribution to attend to the complaints relating to any aspect of the Department`s functioning including the Public Distribution System.The Department has also designated the senior officers of the Department as members of flying squad for conducting immediate and prompt enquiry whenever the need for it is felt.